

Danson Primary School Newsletter

Head Teacher's Notice Board

Dear Children, Mums, Dads and Carers,

We have had a jammed packed fun filled few weeks, following our return from half term, I can't believe how quickly this half term is going!

Working with the Local Community

Danson was proud to be asked to create a mural art installation for The Royal British Legion-Bexleyheath and Welling Branch's Garden of Remembrance. Every child and member of staff also had the opportunity to contribute to the mural. We were delighted to find out that our mural was a centrepiece to the service that was attended by The Mayor and Consort, along with the Deputy Lieutenant, Dave Easton, Leader of the Council, Baroness Teresa O'Neill of Bexley OBE, Ken Sprowles and senior officers from partner agencies. This HUGE project was overseen and led by the amazing Mrs Foskett and a group of our gifted Danson artists, Bella, Tia, Albert, Alexi, Sasha and Lyla.

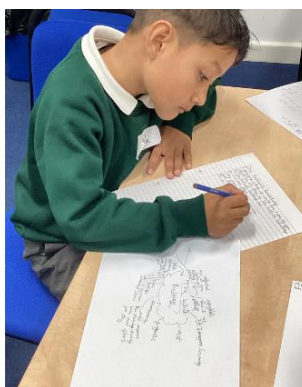


Prospective Reception Parents' Tours

We were delighted to see so many prospective parents and children visit our open mornings and afternoons. I can't fully put into words the enormous sense of pride and emotion to see our Pupil Leadership Group, House Captains and Learning Ambassadors from Year 1 to Year 6 share their learning and experience of being part of the Danson family. The children just beamed as they chatted to our visitors! Well done everyone, it was definitely a proud Head Teacher memory I will never forget.

Aiming High

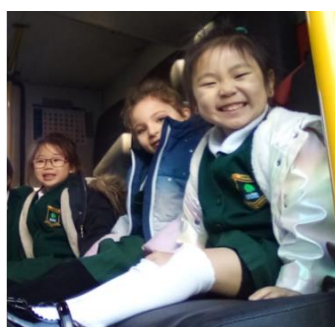
On Tuesday 12th November, a group of children from Years 4 and 6 travelled to Bexleyheath Central Library. They had been selected to participate in a writing workshop with other local schools led by the well-known poet Noel Zetter. Throughout the day, the children enjoyed listening to Noel perform some of his entertaining poems, discovering more about the writing process and the inspiration for his poetry. The children were then tasked to plan, write and edit a poem based on the theme 'From where I stand...'. The focus and quality of writing produced by the children was fantastic and the end result was some truly impressive poems! It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to express their creativity and develop their poetry writing skills.



On Monday 18th November, a group of children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a mathematical workshop with other local schools led by the maths specialist Pete Hall. Throughout the day, children enjoyed learning and exploring lots of different mathematical questions that can be found on social media. The children were tasked to answer these and think about using BODMAS to help solve the questions. Also, they discussed why BODMAS was invented and why it is so important to use it to find the answers. In the afternoon the children explored the TANGRAM and looked at how it was invented. The children had a fantastic day and loved the opportunity of putting their mathematics skills into action.

Visitors to EYFS

This half term, Reception have been thinking about all the people who help us in our everyday life who they should view as Superheroes. The children were very excited to have the Firefighters from our local Eltham Fire Station. They were in their element squirting water from the hose, sitting in the Fire Engine, and finding out about the tools the Firefighters use and the jobs they have to do. The children then had a visit from a Midwife and weighed lifelike babies, used blood pressure machines, digital thermometers and listened to each other's heart beats with stethoscopes.



Our next visit was from the Police Force. We had lots of questions to ask them about their job and the equipment they use to do this. We were able to look inside the police van and even used the horn to set the siren off. It was so much fun! After our visits many of us now want to be Firefighters, Midwives and Police Officers when we grow up. We are also very grateful to our visitors for giving up their time to come and show us and talk to us about what they do every day for their occupations.



Parent Workshops

It was such a pleasure to host our Reception Maths workshop to our Reception parents on the 21st November. It was a great opportunity for our parents to have the opportunity to see what maths is like in action in our reception classes. Thank you to Mr Ewen for leading the session and to all our parents for being so great at taking part in all the practical activities. The parents were very enthusiastic and joined in all the practical learning. Our parents had such fantastic feedback following the session:

“Very informative and giving us a lot of insights and techniques to teach my child maths at home.”

“Fantastic opportunity to come into Danson again! Thank you for inviting us in so much – my son is so happy!”

“It was very helpful to understand how my child is learning maths and the techniques I can help her with.”

Anti-Bullying Week

During the week 12th - 15th November, we recognised Anti-Bullying Week at Danson. This year's theme was 'Choose Respect'. Throughout the week, the children explored the meaning of respect and how we can show respect in different situations. On Tuesday, the children and staff participated in 'Odd Sock Day' to show we are ALL unique and different, and let's be kind to each other and respect each other's individuality.



As part of the week, the children were invited to take part in a competition to design a mascot that represents 'Respect'. Well done to everyone who submitted some fantastic entries. Selecting the overall winners will be a tough decision and they will be announced very shortly.



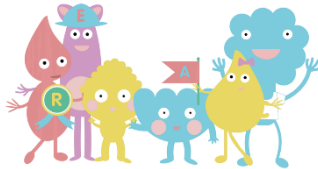
Working with Bexley Grammar School

On Wednesday 13th November, a group of our Year 5 girls visited Bexley Grammar School to compete in the Bebras Challenge. This event introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. The girls had forty-five minutes to complete a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving appropriate to their age group. The girls that took part really enjoyed it and will receive their results of how well they have done the before the end of the term. Danson will definitely be entering again next year.

Transport for London



On Tuesday 12th November, Year 6 were visited by staff from Transport for London (TFL). During the presentation, the children were informed about using public transport respectfully and safely including how to plan routes, what to do if their plans need to change, what to do in the event of an emergency, who and where they can seek help from and the practical side of how zip cards work. At the end of the presentation, every child in Year 6 received a zip card wallet with additional information and games included to support them.



My Happy Mind

The children have now completed our first Happy Mind topic - Meet your Brain. The children loved learning about their brains and we were blown away with their knowledge about the different parts of their brains and how they work. The children shared their particularly loved Happy Breathing strategy as it really helps them to calm down and refocus. They have been using it both at school and at home with great success! Our new Happy Mind topic is called Celebrate and we are so excited to hear all about their amazing character strengths.

Parents, please remember the App full of fantastic resources is available to download, please use the code 101403.



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November, the school had lots of fun raising money for Children in Need. The children and staff came dressed in Pudsey outfits, something spotty and an array of various styles of Pudsey ears! The children had lots of fun playing the activities organised by their School Council representatives and as a result we raised a fantastic £726.60 for this worthwhile charity. Well done everyone!



Sporting Update

Mixed Netball

The mixed Netball team kicked off their season with a thrilling 2-1 victory over local rivals, Sherwood Park. With many players participating in their first ever Netball match, the team showed impressive determination and skill throughout. Sherwood Park took the lead with only a few minutes remaining, but a quick-fire double by Lyla turned the game in Danson's favour, securing the win as time ran out. Team : Arissa A, Leah B, Ahkyn B, Lyla M, Casper O'C, Talya O.



Luke D has recently qualified to represent the South East region Level 1 (under 9) at the British Gymnastics National Championship held at the Telford International Centre.

The team comprised of six boys from neighbouring clubs within Surrey. Despite this being Luke's first national competition, he remained unfazed and took each apparatus (7 in total) in his stride to help the team achieve the club level gold position and individual silver.

As a result of his top six finish, Luke has been invited to a national training camp at the British Gymnastics headquarters in Lilleshall, led by GB certified coaches and fellow gymnasts from around the country. Such an amazing achievement, well done Luke we are so proud of you!!



Open Afternoon

We were delighted to see so many parents and families visit the school this afternoon for our Open Afternoon. It was an absolute delight to see the children in full flow sharing their books and learning for this term with their nearest and dearest.

WOW!! What an amazing half term so far!! I can't wait to share all the fantastic things we do next. Wishing you all a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

L Casey